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Odontalgic state of gums
or diseases of the teeth.
1805

Edward Colver / State of New York
in Town of New York

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group 4th
~~depends upon 3 causes - 1: The~~
✓ ~~It is derived from~~ a disease in
the gums which detaches them from the
teeth, and in so doing, exposes the lower
part of the teeth to the action of the cold
air, to hot liquors, and to various kinds of
irritating drinks & aliments. The teeth in
this case become brown or dark colored
from the loss of that nourishment & they
derive from the arteries which are torn
with the gum from the teeth.

2 A decay ^{or gangrene} of the enamel of the tooth, in
consequence of which the bone of the tooth
is exposed to cold, and all the irritants before
mentioned. This decay is ^{generally} the effect of inflammation.
- but now and then of scrophula.

3 A disease in the root of the tooth com-
municated from the ^{disease in the gums or the} decay of the enamel,
or induced by too much pressure upon it,
This disease shows itself in tumors which
sometimes suppurate on the external
part of the lower jaw bones. — This disease
occurs only in the canine and molars teeth.
return to p. 4. =

The Odontalgic state of fever.

The teeth are provided with Arteries, and
Nerves, of course they ~~be~~ are subject to disease,
and that disease generally partakes more or
less of fever. Their contiguity to the gums,
jaw bone, & brain, and their connection with
the whole system ^{often} under this fever a serious
& distressing ~~indisposition~~. The pain in this
fever is ~~exquisite~~ dull - acute - fretting
& so exquisite at times, as to induce tempo-
rary madness. &c. &c.

~~The disease is~~ ^{of an} It is acute & Chronic.
^{nature}
- In both it terminates when left to itself
1 resolution - or 2
in what I shall call Gangrene of the teeth,
that is in a decay ^{or gangrene} of the teeth & in gum
boils, - or in Abscesses which are seated at the
roots of the teeth ^{with swellings} which extend to the tonsils and
parotid glands. The Chronic form is some-
times unaccompanied with pain.

✓ It is unknown in the northern
parts of Europe, ~~is~~ where the cold,
and heat are not often alternated, &
where they succeed each other gradually.
It is unknown likewise in the ^ptropical
climates where the inhabitants do not
use cold drinks, and live in an atmos-
-phere of an uniform temperature.

1 go to 3 1/2

Its causes are direct and indirect.

1 The direct causes of it are the Alternate Action of warm and cold air to the body. hence it occurs more frequently in the Spring and Autumn, when the weather is variable than at any other time. ✓

2 The Alternate Action of hot & cold liquors to the teeth. The Inhabitants of St Kitts who alone of all the West India Islanders drink very cold water, are the only people in the Islands who are afflicted with the tooth Ach. Dr Spence informed me that he drew more teeth in Summer than at any other time. The cause of this greater frequency of the disease which required this operation, is owing to the ~~too~~ great coldness of the water in our city, & perhaps to the great use of iced liquors in the Summer months.

~~3 There are several other direct causes~~

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- which are ~~said to~~³ induce the tooth ache,
- These are Sugar - salt, and animal food.
- ~~Threat Sugar.~~

3 all such substances as corrode the teeth
such as unripe fruits - the mineral acids,
and tooth powders composed of corrosive
matters; also the foul & corrosive matter
which ^{adhere to the teeth as tartar, or which} remain in the teeth after eating, or
which are discharged from the teeth after
they become carious.

4 what ever offers violence to the teeth, so
as to weaken their Union with the jaw bone,
- This includes ~~or~~ biting ^{threads, or tearing} ~~hard~~ substances,
hard apples, or other articles of Aliment to pieces
- ~~dragging such substances as are not very~~
~~with the teeth~~
~~hard from the teeth~~ - and even rubbing
them with hard & rough tooth pow-
=ders. -

I have been enumerated produce the following effects. go to p: 1 V

= ~~from p. 4~~
— These effects of the tooth ache become afterwards predisposing causes to it, & expose to frequent Attacks of it from all its remote causes formerly mentioned.

But they all sometimes take place without previous pain. In this respect they are upon a footing with many of the Venereal Diseases we have mentioned, & of the Disorders which show themselves without any ~~of~~ previous Disease — as Schirrus — pectus — fungula —

Sagarth salt, and animal food have been
 supposed to dispose to this disease. But
 they produce it only when they act upon a
 bar nerve in a decayed tooth, and then
 seldom exists more than a temporary
 pain. It is true salt when taken in
 meat often produces the Scurvy which
 by disposing the gums ^{loosens & discharges} ~~throws~~
 out the teeth, but this is ^{an effect} ~~a disease~~ totally
 different from that which salt produces
 as a direct stimulus to the teeth. ~~Now~~
 2 the indirect causes of tooth ach are
 Gout - Rheumatism ^{and the decay of the teeth,} and Dyspepsia. The
 Gout sometimes ^{Scrophula} throws the teeth out of
 their sockets. 2 certain hardening of the
 gums. All the causes of tooth ach which
 There is a peculiarity in this disease
 which is worthy of notice. It sometimes when
 fixed in one tooth, affects, another in the

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opposite side of the jaw, and at the same dis-
-tance from the ^{same} extreme tooth of the sound
side with itself. It has been called the Sym-
-pathetic tooth Ach.

of the Remedies for tooth Ach.

1. I shall mention is

1. ~~This should be~~ extraction when practi-

-cable. But it is sometimes forbidden by
the impossibility of discovering the affected tooth,
from the pain being diffused through the
whole side of the jaw; - by It is forbidden
likewise by fear in pregnancy, in which
Syncope might induce abortion - and by
a dangerous predisposition to hemorrhage
which belongs to some persons & even to
whole families. It is ^{further} ~~likewise~~ often preven-
-ted by the swelling of the face & jaw which
renders it impossible to introduce an in-
-strument into the mouth. In those

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Cases we must have recourse
2 to Bleeding. This should be general when
the fever brings the whole system into
~~hysteria~~ ^{Sympathy} or at seasons in which dangerous
fevers are epidemic. I have known it
to occur five times just before an attack
of the yellow fever. ^{probably} saved the lives of
four of the persons who were affected by
it. The person in whom it was omitted,
died. When the disease is local, local bleed-
-ing often cures it. This may be done
by cutting the Gums of the affected tooth
with a lancet, and when the external
part of the jaw is affected, by cups, and
Leeches.

3 Purges. These reduce the fever & lessen pain.

4 Blisters ~~to~~ behind the ears often
afford

✓ they may be used where the two former
are objected to, or cannot be procured.

immediate relief. A German Surgeon
Kueffer
has recommended a Blister to be ^{excited} ~~made~~
upon the gum by applying a little
cotton to it wetted with the Tincture of
Camphard: made by infusing half an
ounce of the flis in a pint of rectified
Spirit of wine. ^{He says it} ~~the extract~~ instantly
removes the disease. Biblioth. vol. 1.

5 a fig or raisin roasted and applied to the
tooth often extracts the pain - ^{Does it} sometimes
^{by} ~~by~~ producing a swelling or small vesicle.

6 Chewing ^{& Smoking} Tobacco, also the Rad. Pyrethri,
by depleting ~~and~~ creating a counterstimulus
& ~~de~~ bringing on depletion from the affected
part often give great relief. Spirits held in
the mouth, also warm water affords relief, but
5 Inhalers, particularly ^{produce} ~~give~~ the
same effect, by acting indirectly in the
same manner. Calomel & loaf sugar ^{are} useful for

6 I have known Garlic applied to the

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Soles of the feet, and ~~even~~^{if} holding the feet
to the fire, until the heat is sensibly
felt, relieve the pain of this disease.

~~Of~~ ^{also} ~~Trans~~ Joy, such as the unexpected sight
of a friend, ^{also} terror & fear excited often by
the sight of a tooth drawer or ~~if~~ of his
cold iron, have often chased away this
pain and even prevented the recurrence
of the disease.

10 ~~Of~~ Laudanum. When the above remedies
~~fail~~ ^{fail} should be taken in large doses till
ease be obtained. Opium should be put,
when practicable into the hollow tooth.

11 ~~Of~~ External applications should be used
to the jaw, such as opium combined
with wax, ginger or pepper - or liquid
Laudanum mixed into a paste with
flour, ^{or ginger} and spread on paper ~~in~~ or
leather. Mustard applied behind the ears often
gives relief.

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These are the Remedies when it is induced by direct causes, when it brought on by general ~~severe~~ Diseases, or by diseases of other parts of the body, the Remedies should be accommodated to them. If it accompany biliousness. Emetics are useful. Mr.

Townsend says he has twice cured it by this remedy. When it arises from Dyspepsia the Remedies for that disease should be prescribed. Dr. Lister says he often cured it in himself by taking half a glass of ~~the~~ brandy. - Its occasional connection with a weak tone of the stomach is demonstrated by its being often cured or suspended by a full meal. The palliative remedies before mentioned ^{shd}? not be admitted while the above radical Remedies are used for both act from its indirect causes.

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If any of the above ^{objections} to drawing
a decayed tooth should operate after the paroxysm
of the disease is cured, the ~~hollow~~ cavity in
it should be filled with gold leaf, or the base
nerve in it should be destroyed by lunar
caustic, Thuret. Cantharid: or a red hot
iron continued for that purpose.

But ~~objections to the extraction~~ decayed
teeth should not be tolerated for light
reasons by a physician. For, 1st They
keep up a constant predisposition to a return
of the tooth ach. 2nd They secrete or effuse
a matter of so corrosive a ^{nature} as to ~~corrode~~
dissolve the adjoining, or inferior teeth. ^{Often to induce Ulcers in the Gums & Loosel.}
This matter corrodes even the fibres of which the
pivots of Artificial teeth are made. 3rd They
impair mastication, and ~~thus~~ ^{by} render the
food more difficult of digestion, & bring
on Dyspepsia, & general ill health. 4th They
impart to the breath a disagreeable odor.

✓ It is sometimes mistaken for
Scrophularia. I once saw it induce sore on
the nose which yielded only to the extraction
of a decayed tooth. Gen. Wad. The eyes I believe
often sympathize with this disease - hence
the teeth which extend to their roots towards the
antrum are called eye teeth.

5 They induce external tumors on the
upper and lower jaws. These tumors are
only to be cured ^{only} by the extraction of the
too decayed tooth, or teeth to which are their
causes. When neglected, they ~~they~~ ^{sometimes}
suppurate. I once saw this suppuration,
penetrate the jaw bone & bring on hectic
fever and death. When the extraction of
a tooth or teeth from the upper jaw does
not remove the tumor, the Anterior
maxillare should be perforated thro' the
socket of the extracted tooth. I cured this
disease a few years in a gentleman from
South Carolina, but not till I had directed
him to lose eight or nine of his upper
teeth, all of which were decayed. ^v6, and
lastly they are the inlets of several distemping
diseases. You will not be surprised at this
when you recollect what terrible commotions

V morbid excitement in the lungs.
The less pain they give the more
apt they are to induce general dis-
-ease. In this respect they resemble
the injuries done to the foot or hand
by a nail. The less the wounded part
inflames, the more - the danger of
Septicæmia.

are sometimes excited in the system by
 a needle, or splinter lightly wounding
 a finger or a toe. Dyspepsia, Rheumatism,
 Vertigo, ^{Epilepsy} madness, an Obstinate Intermittent,
 pulmonary Consumption, & Obstructed menses
 have all been ~~and~~ conveyed into the system
 by a decayed tooth, or teeth, & nearly all
 of them but one, cured by their extraction.
 For the particulars of these cases, I refer
 you to my letter to Dr. Miller published in
 the medical Repository. These cases should
 lead us to inquire into the state of the teeth
 in all chronic diseases. ^{In my practice 1804 I} ~~have~~ been benefited by them
 in the case of a lady in Brunswick who
~~is nearly~~ ^{has} recovered of a Consumption, whose
 cure I began by directing the extraction of six
 or eight decayed teeth & shreds of teeth, which
 prevented the due mastication of her food, &
 which I suspected were so many inlets to

Y from their Sockets, and become loose, when
not used, hence we observe the loss of the
teeth of the lower jaw soon [90 to # p 14.
+ the ant. imm- and veg. bird are all more harmful
to the teeth than the milk.

2 In young people we sometimes find a single decayed tooth with ~~a set of~~ ^{the} every other tooth perfectly sound & beautiful. ~~at~~

This solitary rotten tooth arises from
the its being so much pressed by adjoining
& surrounding teeth as to perish from
the want of nourishment. It should
be extracted immediately, or the disease
will spread thro' the whole jaw. I have
known a number of instances of a decay
in the teeth being thus checked. Dr. Spence
confirmed the remark from his long
experience. The teeth like plants suffo-
cate & destroy each other, if they grow too closely.

unpleasant in the lungs. The last pain
~~they give, the more necessary to extract them.~~

I shall now deliver a few directions
 for obtaining good teeth, for preserving them
 afterwards, and for obtaining substitutes
 for them when lost.

1 Let the milk teeth be extracted as soon as
 they become loose, thereby to enable the
 second teeth to become straight & regular.

If the best disposition appears in any of
 them to grow irregularly, let them be kept
 straight by silver wire, or drawing the
 adjoining milk teeth before they are loose.

crooked teeth like deformity in other parts
 of the body, always disposes to disease. They
 generally decay soon, while regular and
 handsome teeth are generally lasting.

2 Remove a decayed tooth as soon it becomes
 painful, or as soon as you are unable
 to chew with it. The tooth soon project V

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To follow the decay & loss of the teeth of the
upper jaw. Thus you ^{see} even the teeth
require exercise to preserve their health
and vigor.

3 ~~Do~~ Avoid the early use of ^{soft food.} ~~the~~ ^{It} ~~disposes~~ ^{disposes} the incisive teeth to project
from the wall of employment - by which means they are unable ~~to~~ ^{to project} after
a while, to bring their molars together. ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~prevented by~~ ^{prevented by} the enamel of ~~the~~ ^{the} teeth.
of acids particularly ^{which} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~caused by~~ ^{caused by} the enamel of ~~the~~ ^{the} teeth.
^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~prevented by~~ ^{prevented by} the enamel of ~~the~~ ^{the} teeth.

4 ~~Do~~ Protect the head & jaws from cold, & ^{by} ~~by~~ ^{by} sleeping in a warm night cap.
- By this means the warmth of the body
is equalized in bed. The French people
who live in a variable climate have
excellent teeth, which they owe to sleeping
in woollen night caps.

5 ~~Do~~ Wash your ^{jaws} ~~teeth~~ ^{abstain} every morning
in cold water, and your teeth with
water that is tempered by the fire, or
standing all night in the warm air.

6 ~~Do~~ Wash your teeth every ^{after} ~~day~~ meal,
and ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~all~~ ^{all} particularly after supper.

✓ The powder of Bush is useful when
the gums are disordered, or the teeth loose.

W. H.

15

The reliquiae of food by stagnating on
a whole night ^{and} become putrid & corrosive.

7 Avoid the ~~ex~~ alternate application of
hot and cold drinks or food to them in
a quick succession.

8 Avoid using the teeth for purposes for
which they were not intended, such as
cracking hickory nuts, bending nails,
~~eating~~ ^{biting} hard apples, the nails of the fingers, or
even biting the ends of thread. Women weaken their
fore teeth by the last practice.

9 Frequently & carefully remove ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{Tartar}
Tartar from the roots of the teeth. ~~It prevents~~
their accumulation, and thus loosens &
destroys them.

10 All acid, acid, and corrosive tooth
powders should be avoided - also too
much friction of the teeth. ^{The fine powder of charcoal is} ~~Beck's~~
a safe & useful Dentifrice. A weak solution

11 ✓ Brown & black spots on the teeth
should be removed by a file. The former
arise from internal - the latter from
external causes.

The teeth never decay after 50 years
of age. They generally become loose, and
drop out, or adhere to the gum only after
60 from the absorption of the ^{alveolar} sockets.
~~processes.~~

16
of a veg. Alkali is ~~perfect~~ an excellent
application to the teeth. It dissolves the
matters which cleave to them & thereby
prepares the way for their being
washed out of the mouth. It moreover
prevents the breath being tainted by the
impurities of unsonned teeth. ~~these~~
I have known Soap used for the same
purpose with Advantage. It gives a
whiteness to the teeth. ✓

For an acc^t of the best method of
extracting the teeth I refer you to surgical
books; I shall only observe that they are
extracted with the least pain when they
are not inflamed, i.e. When they do not
ach, & that patients bear the operation
with the most courage immediately af-
ter eating a hearty dinner.

The ^{inconveniences of the} ~~loss of the teeth~~ is loss of the teeth
to beauty, speech & nourishment ~~has~~
such that Art has supplied several



Substitutes for them. These are ~~the~~ ^{human} teeth
human teeth extracted from poor people,
& suddenly placed in the Sockets of decayed
ones. The ^{dent} tooth here does not unite with
the blood vessels of the sockets. This has
been proved by a wooden tooth becoming
equally firm in the Socket of a dog, ~~before~~ ^{also}
the root of the artificial tooth decaying in
~~the~~ dissolving in the sockets while the
other part is perfectly sound. In short
the tooth adheres to the Jaw bone only as
a nail adheres to wood. A dry tooth sh.
always be preferred to a recent one, it
being more durable, & less apt produce
irritation - inflamⁿ & Ulceration all of
which have often been produced by
this operation. I cannot ^{recommen^d} ~~recommen^d~~
this practice. It is painful - ^{tedious,} dangerous
and seldom ^{longer} temporary. The teeth
seldom last ~~more~~ ^{longer} than 4, or 5 years.





